

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

Fall 2008 Newsletter

Letter from the President

Dear Members of Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children:

Greetings! This is the first newsletter since our new officers were installed and I am very excited to serve as your president of LaCEC for 2008-09. I would like to encourage all of our members to visit the LaCEC website at lacec.org regularly for updated information on our organization. Please apply for minigrants and scholarships that are available to teachers and future teachers of Louisiana. Nominate that outstanding student for the "Yes, I Can" Award. Do you know an outstanding professional at the school or university level? Nominate them for the "Professional of the Year" Award. We all are aware of which businesses make the extra effort to hire individuals with disabilities – nominate them for the "Business of the Year" Award. Tell a colleague about the benefits of CEC and encourage them to become a member.

We are currently planning Super Conference 28 which will be held at the Lafayette Cajundome on January 26-27, 2009. Mark the date on your calendar since this year's program offers a wonderful opportunity for professional development for the veteran as well as the newcomer.

I would like to welcome the new members to LaCEC and encourage them to become involved in our professional organization.

I can be reached at covens1107@yahoo.com or 985-652-5391 if you would like more information about LaCEC.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Owens

Cynthia Owens

LaCEC

Announcing 2009 Super Conference 28

Hi, everyone, it is time to mark your calendars! The Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children's 2009 Super Conference is right around the corner, January 26 and 27, 2009, at the Cajundome and Convention Center in Lafayette. This year's Call For Papers has changed a little. We have added new areas of interest; we have expanded old areas of interest. We ask that everyone interested in participating in this year's conference fill out and submit the Call For Papers form by **October 31, 2008**. The Call For Papers is also available at the LA CEC Web site, <http://www.lacec.org> and is included in this newsletter.

For your information, Internet service is available in the Convention Center/Cajun Dome. It is \$250 for the first connection, then \$75 for each additional connection. The Internet provider is WOW Technologies and can be reached at 337-291-9911. Anyone desiring Internet connection for a presentation should contact WOW Technologies directly.

We anticipate an exciting program of speakers and professional exhibitors available to answer questions about materials available to students, educators, and administrators. If you have any questions about the Call For Papers or the program, please contact Dr. Karen McFerrin at mcferrin@nsula.edu or (318) 357-5083.

CEC Board of Directors Election Voting

It is time for CEC members to elect several members to the CEC Board of Directors. During the last election, 9.2% of our state/provincial/division members voted. Our unit has been charged with increasing this number by 3 to 5%. It is our hope that all of our members will read the biographies of the Board of Directors candidates and **cast their vote by October 23, 2008**. In order to make sure that all members receive the necessary election information, members are also encouraged to update their contact information (including e-mail addresses) with CEC Headquarters. Remember...Vote, Vote, Vote!!!

Words of Thanks and Invitation from the Vice President

By Paul Mooney

Thanks to those of you who chose to vote for me as vice president in the past election. I appreciate the chance to work with members of the organization, including those who opt to serve on LA CEC's executive board. President Cindy Owens has recruited a group of giving individuals for the coming year who I believe will work hard to represent member interests as well as children and adolescents with exceptionalities and their families.

One of the meaningful tasks that LA CEC executive board members engage in on an annual basis is the formation and implementation of our annual professional development activity. Our 28th annual Super Conference is slated for Jan. 26-27 in Lafayette at the Cajun Dome. Annually, around 1,000 participants attend the two-day event, which includes presentations on timely topics and age-old favorites. Time is also set aside to celebrate the successes of Louisiana teachers, students, and their families.

Members have a great opportunity to share their – and their students' successes – in implementing scientifically-

based exceptional education. Please consider presenting your "tricks of the trade" at Super Conference along with the results that have demonstrated to you that your "tricks" are positively influencing the lives of your students. Attendees continue to indicate to conference organizers that they appreciate walking away from Super Conference with a new strategy or two to try out in their own classrooms. If you're willing to present, then complete the inserted Call for Papers. If you know of a colleague at your school or in your district that dazzles with their content knowledge or delivery style, please encourage that person to consider presenting as well. We aim to deliver as practitioner-friendly a conference as we are able.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve LA CEC as vice president in the coming year and, among other activities, help organize the Super Conference. I hope we all learn and grow in our knowledge on how to best work with students with disabilities and their families.

Advance Organizers

By Jannan Caddy - Louisiana State University

In a meta-analysis conducted by Swanson and Deshler (2003), they found that 16% of the variance found between eighteen instructional factors could be contributed to only two of the factors. The set of 93 students studied in the group design provided the researchers with great insight into the most important instructional facets. Researchers discovered that advance organizers and explicit practice were the two keys of instructional practice. This article will explore advance organizers, their benefits, and "how to" of using them.

Advance organizers are a teaching activity that activates a students' prior knowledge of an event or topic before beginning a lesson. Teaching with advance organizers can include looking over material before a lesson begins, directing focus on a specific topic, providing prior information about a topic, questioning students about their prior experience with an issue, or simply stating the objectives of a lesson.

Based on the principals of advance organizers, one practical example of an advance organizer is the Content Enhancement Unit Organizer Routine. The Unit Organizer Routine helps to guide teachers when choosing what to teach and how to teach it in a memorable way. When creating the routine, teacher explicitly identifies the following components: the current unit at it relates to previous and future units; a description that binds these

units together; the language and ideas that the unit will develop; a unit map illustrating what will be covered, their relationships to one another, and perhaps the order in which it will be covered; self-test questions to be used for self-monitoring; and a unit schedule, a syllabus-type calendar of unit events. Two additional components that may be used are the extended unit map on which students can identify supporting details and subtopics, and new unit self-test questions that the students write as they develop a curiosity about what is to be taught in the future.

As a result of using advance organizers, the Unit Organizer Routine in particular, a teacher can expect students to be able to link important ideas, retain information, organize their thoughts about the unit, have a reference to look back on during future units, have a guide for their own teaching, and develop more confident, capable students.

References

- Ellis, E.S., Bulgren, J.A., Schumaker, J.B., Deshler, D.D., & Boudah, D.A. (2005). *The unit organizer routine*. Lawrence, KS: Edge Enterprises.
- Swanson, H.L., & Deshler, D. (2003). Instructing adolescents with learning disabilities. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 36, 124-135.

**Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (LA-CEC)
2008 Student Scholarship Application**

LA-CEC 2008 Student Scholarship Application Cover Sheet

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell/pager: _____ E-Mail: _____

University/College information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

SCEC Chapter Name: _____ Chapter #: _____

Specific Major: _____

Degree Pursuing: _____

Specify your student status for the academic year of this award:

___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Graduate

Expected date of Graduation: _____ Month _____ Year

***Applications must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2008, and sent to:
Dr. Barbara Duchardt, LA-CEC Student Scholarship Chair
Room 104J, Pod D, Teacher Education Center, 150 Tarlton Drive
Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497***

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (LA-CEC) 2008-2009 Mini-Grant Application Guidelines (Amount of Funding: \$500)

DEADLINE: *The completed 2008-2009 LA-CEC Mini-Grant Application must be postmarked on or before midnight November 1, 2008 and submitted to the address listed below.*

All interested persons are encouraged to apply. Applicants do not need to be experienced in grant writing to receive an award as long as they follow the organization and format listed below.

List of Application Items

Directions: Please follow the directions for the LA-CEC Mini-Grant as listed below. Your grant will not be considered for funding if it is not organized in the format below and submitted on the due date with two copies.

In short, you must follow the grant guidelines by organizing and labeling it as described below.

- **Mini-Grant Organization and Clarity:** Write a clear and organized LA-CEC mini-grant proposal that includes the following information (in the order in which it is listed below).
- **Mini-Grant Length of Application:** Applications should be no longer than **5 typed pages** and should describe the proposed project clearly.
- **Mini-Grant Submission:** Submit **two (2) copies** of the completed LA-CEC Mini-Grant Application to Dr. Duchardt at the address listed at the bottom of this page.
- **Mini-Grant Deadline:** The Mini-Grant must be postmarked on or before, **Saturday, November 1, 2008.**

Mini-Grant Questions: Please contact Dr. Duchardt if you have any questions about this application:

Phone: 318-357-5154; E-mail: duchardt@nsula.edu

*****Mini-Grant Award checks will be mailed by December 31, 2008.***

Grant Organization: Please organize, number, and label your grant following the format listed below:

1. Please indicate the type of award for which you are applying.

- a. Educating Children with Exceptionalities.
- b. Improving Relationships between Families and their Children with Exceptionalities.
- c. Developing Independent Living Skills or Employment of Students with Exceptionalities.
- d. Using Technology to Enhance the Education of Children and/or Youth with Exceptionalities.

2. Application/ Project Director submitting the proposal information

- a) Contact information: Include name, address, city, state, zip code, cell phone number, & email address.
- b) Resume: Include a one-page Resume
- c) CEC Member: Identify if you are a member of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

3. Host agency/school district or other public institution/non-profit agency information including:

- a) Contact information: Include name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, & email address.
- b) Non-Profit Status: Include a statement of Nonprofit or Institution Status.

4. Project Description must include the following items in an organized, numbered, and labeled format:

- a) Title of Project
- b) Duration of the Project (**Note: the Project must take place between the dates of 12/15/08 and 5/31/09**)
- c) Statement of Problem or Need which the Project addresses
- d) Description of the Population to be served
- e) Project Objectives
- f) Project Activities to accomplish each Objective
- g) Project Activities Timeline
- h) Evaluation Procedures for Evaluating each Project Objective
- i) Project Benefits: Anticipated Benefits of the Project
- j) Project Budget

5. A Letter of Endorsement from an administrator of the agency that includes the following assurances:

- a) The Project will directly benefit the identified Population.
- b) The School System or Nonprofit Organization assumes responsibility for the safety of the Students while engaged in the activities described in the proposal.
- c) The Activities are normally undertaken by students and their teachers and are approved activities within the school system.

All interested persons are encouraged to apply. Applicants do not need to be experienced in grant writing to receive an award as long as they follow the organization and format listed above.

Dr. Barbara Duchardt, LA-CEC Mini-Grant Chair
Room 104J, Pod D, Teacher Education Center, 150 Tarlton Drive
Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497
Phone: 318-357-5154; E-mail: duchardt@nsula.edu

Call for Papers
28th Annual Super Conference on Special Education -Lafayette, LA January 26-27, 2009
Sponsored by the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Session Title (Limit to 12 words) _____

Brief Description (Limit to 50 words. Attach.) _____

Learner Outcomes – Provide one to three outcomes for the presentation. Outcomes should concisely describe skills, knowledge and or behaviors participants will know or have after the session. For example *At the end of the session participants will know three strategies for using social stories with students with autism.*

ATTACH A 300-500 WORD DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL.

Topic Areas – Select no more than one primary and one secondary topic area – indicate with 1 and 2.

<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Linguistic Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> RTI
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Education Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood/DEC	<input type="checkbox"/> School-wide Positive Behavior
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistive Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Gifted/Talented	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessments
<input type="checkbox"/> Autism/Sensory/Low Incidence	<input type="checkbox"/> Instructional Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> SIM
<input type="checkbox"/> Behavior/Classroom Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel
<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance/Legislative Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Training/Prof. Dev.
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transition

Preferred length of session: _____ 1 hour _____ 2 hours

Format: _____ Lecture _____ Demonstration _____ Poster

Session Leader _____ **Agency/School** _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact phone number(s) _____

Email address _____

Other presenters and their agency/school:

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

PLEASE INDICATE AUDIO VISUAL NEEDS: _____ TV/VCR _____ OVERHEAD PROJECTOR
NOTE ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT MUST BE SUPPLIED BY THE PRESENTER.

****Exhibitors desiring to present should contact Dr. Paul Mooney/Melinda Bynog about Vendor Showcase Times****

If your proposal is accepted, ALL PRESENTERS ARE EXPECTED TO PRE-REGISTER AND PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE CONFERENCE. The Session Leader will be responsible for contacting the other presenters.

Submit this completed form and your detailed description by October 31, 2008 to:

Dr. Karen McFerrin
Northwestern State University
College of Education
TEC Room 216
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Phone: 318-357-5083

Email: mcferrin@nsula.edu

or submit proposal online at www.lacec.org

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (LA-CEC) **Student Scholarship Application 2008**

Description: Louisiana CEC offers a scholarship annually to a CEC student member who is currently pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in special education. The amount of the scholarship is \$1000.

One Scholarship is in memory of Cecil J. Picard, and one scholarship is a Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Scholarship.

Award Criteria: The student must:

1. Be a Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Student member.
2. Be a Junior, Senior, or Graduate Student enrolled in an accredited college or university for the academic year this award is given and majoring in special education.
3. Have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Application Process:

To be considered for this scholarship, please submit the following items:

1. The Scholarship Application Cover Sheet.
2. Official documentation of your GPA or grades (i.e., transcripts from your college/university).
3. A one-page typewritten summary of CEC and/or other activities relating to individuals with disabilities in which you participate.
4. Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a faculty advisor. The letters should address your commitment to the special education profession.
5. A brief autobiography in response to the following three items (Note: Do not exceed two typewritten, double-spaced pages using size 12 font):
 - a. Why did you choose special education as a career?
 - b. How do you view the role of special educator?
 - c. What do you hope to accomplish as a special educator?

Questions: If you have questions regarding the Scholarship Application, please contact Dr. Barbara Duchardt, by phone 318-357-5154 or by e-mail at duchardt@nsula.edu

Application Deadline: To be considered for scholarship selection, the completed application packet must be postmarked no later than Saturday, November 1, 2008, and sent to:

Dr. Barbara Duchardt, LA-CEC Student Scholarship Chair
Room 104J, Pod D, Teacher Education Center, 150 Tarlton Drive
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Scoring Criteria:

Total possible points: 100

1. Application Cover Sheet (5 points)
2. Documentation of GPA (15 points)
3. List of CEC and/or other activities relating to individuals with exceptionalities in which the applicant is involved (10 points)
4. Two Letters of Recommendation, one from a faculty advisor, addressing your commitment to the special education profession (30 points)
5. A brief autobiography responding to the following questions (40 points):
 - a. Why did you choose special education as your career? (10 points)
 - b. How do you view the role of special educators? (20 points)
 - c. What do you hope to accomplish as a special educator? (10 points)

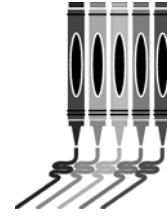
Selection Process:

The Chair of the LA-CEC Scholarship Committee will appoint a Scholarship Subcommittee to conduct an individual blind review of each application based on the criteria and weighted system set forth above. The applicants with the highest accumulative score will be recommended to the LA-CEC Scholarship Chair to receive this award.

Award Process:

A check for the 2007 LA-CEC Scholarship monies will be sent to the recipient before December 31, 2008.

Art Contest



Design the cover for the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children's 28th Annual Super Conference program and win \$150.00

The theme for the conference is:

“Educating the Mind in 2009”

Guidelines:

- Open to all k-12 students in Louisiana
- 8 ½ x 11 portrait orientation
- 4 color maximum
- The title is not needed it will be added

All artwork must include on the back: name, address, email address, telephone number, teacher and school affiliation.

Please send artwork to:

Dr. Gerlinde Beckers
325 Peabody Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

**Must be received by:
Friday, October 31, 2008**



For more information contact:
Gerlinde Beckers, 225-578-8003, gbecke1@lsu.edu

La. Council for Exceptional Children

***c/o P. O. Box 44904
Lafayette, LA 70504***

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HAVE ANY NEWS?

If you have division, chapter, or person news you would like us all to know about, please submit it to LA CEC newsletter editor, Geraldine Grandstaff-Beckers, at gbecke1@lsu.edu. Please submit your news via e-mail attachment and use Times 12 point font. Thank you.

As of June 1, 2008,
there were 668 Members
in the Louisiana Chapter
of the Council for
Exceptional Children.

Requesting Award Nominations

By Bonnie Buckelew

The LA Council of Exceptional Children is currently accepting nominations for the “Yes, I Can” Award. This award recognizes students with disabilities that excel in the areas of academics, athletics, the arts, extracurricular activities, self advocacy, technology, community involvement, self employment and independent living skills. The Louisiana Council of Exceptional Children is also looking for nominations for the Clarissa B. Hugs Teacher Award, the Paraeducator Award, the Business Award and the Higher Education Award. If you would like additional information about any of the above awards, please contact Bonnie Buckelew at 401 Northeast Street, Jonesboro , LA 71251 (address), 318-259-8802, ext. 24 (work phone) or buckelew@jspb.us. (email).

**It's not too early to plan to attend the 2009 Super Conference 28,
January 26th & 27th at the Cajundome, Lafayette, Louisiana**

Tell your friends and bring a party to help LACEC celebrate its

Annual Professional Development Party.

Learn & Laugh!